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northern drift is present in Vancouver Island and British Columbia, "in as marked a manner as ever I saw it in countries celebrated for the presence of such remains."

He finds rounded hills, trap bosses, rounded rocks, and grooves, while the whole country is strewn with erratic boulders. Great masses, sixty to one hundred tons in weight, are found scattered everywhere over the island (Vancouver) from north to south, and through the region lying on the western slope of the Cascade Mountains. "Grooving and other unequivocal marks of *general* ice action are not wanting in Washington Territory either. The drift marks extend northward to the Queen Charlotte Islands, near the boundary line of Alaska. — *American Journal of Science.*

Boulders in Ancient Times. — In a communication made to the Academy of Sciences of Vienna, M. Boué remarked on the accumulations of boulders in secondary deposits and in the sandstones and conglomerates of the tertiary period. These accumulations have been explained either by the mining force of the currents of water, or by subterranean displacements, or by aqueous eruptions. The most ancient of these blocks are found in the older carboniferous sandstone. They have been traced between Jurassic and Cretaceous beds, and in the latter; but nowhere do they more frequently occur than in the Eocene and Miocene beds of the Alpes. These last have been very probably transported by glaciers, though he could not admit, as some geologists have, that the glaciers have hollowed out the basins of the lakes, or had existed in the course of almost all geological periods. — *Cosmos.*

New Discovery respecting Coccoliths. — Dr. Gümbel, of Munich, has recently, in a letter to *Nature*, No. 26, for April 28th, established the existence of coccoliths and coccospheres, almost identical in structure with those detected by Professor Huxley, in recent deep-sea dredgings from the bed of the Atlantic, in the Trenton limestone and in a yellow limestone of the Potsdam series, much lower down than they have hitherto been discovered. He finds that the organic remains of these minute animals are left as a residuum after the matrix in which they occur has been heated with highly-diluted acetic or hydrochloric acid.

NOTES.

The Yale College scientific party, in charge of Professor O. C. Marsh, which left New Haven in June last for the Rocky Mountains, returned to this city on the 18th of December. The party, which was essentially a private one, consisted of Professor Marsh and twelve companions, all students or recent graduates of the College. The main object of the expedition was to investigate the extinct vertebrate fauna of the Tertiary and Cretaceous deposits of the Rocky Mountain country, and the general plan adopted was to make several separate trips, of one or two hundred miles north or south of the Pacific railroad, to regions that were unexplored, or had never been carefully examined.

The first of these was made early in July, from Fort McPherson in Nebraska to explore the Pliocene deposits along the Loup Fork river. Here rich collections of fossil vertebrates were obtained, and several new species of extinct mammals and birds discovered. The next expedition was made in August, from Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming, to examine the geology of the country between the north and south branches of the Platte river. On this trip the Mauvaises Terres or " Bad land " formation, with the true *Titanotherium* and *Oredon* beds was discovered in Colorado, and traced northward through Nebraska to the North Platte. The fossil remains obtained were also important, and included several species of extinct mammals and birds, new to science.

The third expedition was made from Fort Bridger, Wyoming, in September and October, to examine the geology of the Eastern Uintah Mountains, and the country between the Green and White rivers. In this region interesting geological discoveries were made, and many new Tertiary vertebrate remains secured, which will soon be described by Professor Marsh. On their return, the party went to California, and spent a month in visiting various points of scientific interest; after which they came east to Denver, and thence to Fort Wallace, Kansas. About two weeks were spent in exploring the Cretaceous beds of this vicinity, where some interesting reptilian and fish remains were obtained, and the party then returned to the east.

The expedition as a whole was very successful, and the large collections made will be placed in the Peabody Museum of Yale College. The more important scientific results will soon be published.

Capt. Wheeler, who explored in Nevada last year, has an expedition probably started or about to start. Mr. H. A. Green, late of the Illinois Geological Survey, is Geologist and Mineralogist. Ferdinand Bischoff, who was an indefatigable member of the Scientific Corps of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition, is to make the zoological collections. Capt. Wheeler is to ascend the Colorado Cañon from below with a steamer. His party will have abundant facilities for transportation, and the Commander is much interested in the scientific part of the work. Mr. Powell got an appropriation of $12,000 to make a second descent of the Cañon of the Colorado, and will do so some time this winter. He has already been on to that part of the country, and arranged his details. Altogether the Cañon is in a fair way of being thoroughly explored.

The French *Académie des Sciences* has held its sittings regularly since the beginning of the siege, and the *Comptes rendus* has been published regularly every week. — *Nature.*